

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Office Action of November 29, 2005. Upon entry of this response, Claims 14, 17-34, 38-49, and 51-58 remain pending in the application.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 14, 17-25, 27-29, 31-46, and 47-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0032573 to Williams et al. (hereafter '*Williams*'). More particularly, the Examiner has asserted that *Williams* teaches "providing a selectable list of suppliers to user via a buyer interface of an electronic procurement system." The rejection again states that the term "electronic procurement system" is interpreted as being a "computerized system, within a company developed to alleviate the hassles that can be associated with maintaining a business procurement policy and to maximize access to data regarding business purchases." Lastly, the Examiner notes that "goods" purchased from the suppliers of the claimed invention is interpreted as shipping products (e.g. shipping label).

Williams does not disclose a method or system that integrates shipping services with an electronic procurement system configured such that a user can purchase shipping services in addition to tangible goods (e.g. office supplies, cleaning supplies, computer equipment, or other items that can be shipped). Instead, the *Williams* reference is directed to a system and method for providing an enterprise, e.g., a business, with a single online user interface for providing access to a plurality of shipping service providers. When an employee of the enterprise needs to ship a package to a customer, the employee accesses an online user interface and inputs package information. Once the package information is entered, the system provides the employee, via an online display, with cost and delivery time comparisons between various shipping service providers. After choosing a particular shipping service from the various shipping service providers, the system provides the user with a shipping label.

The electronic procurement system of the present inventions is configured to maintain and implement a company's procurement policy so that purchases of both tangible goods (e.g. office supplies) and shipping services are made in conformity with the procurement policy. In contrast,

Williams discloses a system solely dedicated to the purchase of shipping services.

Independent Claim 14

Independent Claim 14 includes the limitation of “allows said user to purchase both tangible goods and shipping services from said buyer interface.” It is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, because *Williams* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 14, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 38

Independent Claim 38 includes the limitation of “both tangible goods and shipping services to a user accessing said buyer interface.” It is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, because *Williams* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 38, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejection of Claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 40

Independent Claim 40 includes the limitation of “tangible goods in addition to shipping services.” It is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, because *Williams* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 40, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejection of Claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 47

Independent Claim 47 includes the limitation of “allows said user to purchase shipping services and tangible goods from a single computerized interface.” It is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, because *Williams* does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 47, Applicants respectfully submits that Claim 47 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 17-34, 39, 41-46, 48-49, and 51-58

In light of the amendments to Independent Claims 14, 38, 40, and 47, it is respectfully submitted that *Williams* does not anticipate Dependent Claims 17-34, 39, 41-46, 48-49, and 51-58, which add further substantive limitations to the claims from which they depend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the current rejections to Claims 17-34, 39, 41-46, 48-49, and 51-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 14, 17-34, 38-49, and 51-58 of the application are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (404) 881-4930 to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

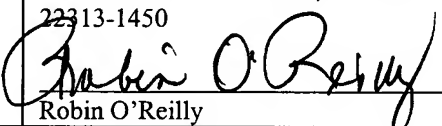
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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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<p>Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Atlanta Office (404) 881-7000 Fax Atlanta Office (404) 881-7777</p>	<p>"Express Mail" mailing label number EV 699660970 US Date of Deposit February 28, 2006</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p>  Robin O'Reilly
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